

keep alive the small-town feeling which could so easily be lost in a big city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Ms. Irene Klementowicz, a woman who has worked very hard to improve her community.

AMERICA'S CREDIT UNION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's Credit Unions. The United States Supreme Court ruled last week that the Depression-era statute which authorized the creation of our Nation's credit unions does not permit them to draw members from a variety of occupations. This decision will upset long-standing federal policies and the personal lives of 70 million credit union members and countless more workers who are considering their financial-planning options.

While the Supreme Court's ruling will stand as long as the statutes governing credit unions remain the same, Congress can act now to clarify the law and protect credit unions. H.R. 1151, "The Credit Union Membership Access Act," would permit credit unions to continue recruiting members according to their traditional practices. This bill has already received 182 co-sponsors, but it desperately needs more support to break its deadlock in Committee.

Credit Unions are the only source of financial services for many low-income Americans. It is unfortunate that I am the only Member of Congress from Mississippi—one of the poorest states in the Union—who is a co-sponsor of this bill even though there are over 419,000 thousand credit union members in Mississippi alone. Nonetheless, Congress can not afford to ignore this issue, and I sense the mood is changing here. Let us act swiftly and move to save credit unions by enacting this bill; more than 70 million Americans are waiting.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RHODA HOOPER

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an outstanding woman and worker, Rhoda Hooper, from my home state of New Hampshire.

Mrs. Hooper was recently named as the "Outstanding Older Worker" from our fine state and I believe she serves as an example to us all that ability is truly timeless.

At the age of 88, Mrs. Hooper is the type of person we would all like to be, and certainly would be lucky to hire. Her success story is both poignant and triumphant. Forced to find employment after the death of her husband, Mrs. Hooper entered the job market as an older worker without significant work experience outside the home or even a driver's license. But despite the odds seemingly stacked against her, Mrs. Hooper found work at New Boston Central School where she has

fulfilled the role of office aide and so much more for the past seven years.

Since she does not drive, on a pleasant day she walks the quarter mile from her home to her job where she never missed a day. Her strong work ethic seems to be matched only by the size of her generous heart. Despite demanding office duties, Mrs. Hooper takes the time to take a personal interest in each of the students. For instance, you will never find a student at New Boston Central School without mittens. She knows when any of the children are without them and makes sure they do not leave school without a hand-knit pair. If you've ever experienced a New Hampshire winter, you know just how wonderful that gift of warm mittens can be.

Her co-workers call her "a lifesaver and a joy to work with." The students affectionately call her "Grandma." I call her a "winner." Not just because she has won a richly deserved award, but because she is a role model for workers everywhere. Mrs. Hooper has overcome obstacles to achieve her goals and change her life, and in the process has enriched the lives of countless others.

I extend my best wishes to Mrs. Hooper as she receives her award and urge her to keep up the good work. She is truly a special person and I am privileged to recognize her here today.

NEWARK STUDENTS PRACTICE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the students of New Jersey for winning the Kindness and Justice Challenge. Pupils of New Jersey led the nation with 96,816 acts of kindness. Students from my home district of Newark, New Jersey led all municipalities with 30,615 good deeds. This is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent such model students.

The competition was started 3 years ago by Newark students who wanted to do something about all the negative images that faced their communities. Today we have over 40,000 pupils in over 12,000 classrooms participating in the contest across the nation. Good deeds are recorded on the Internet to keep an accurate account. Teachers had to pitch in during lunch breaks and at night because not all students had access to computers at home.

Newark students were led by Latoya Hedgespeth, a fifth grader at Madison Avenue School who recorded the most acts of kindness with 321 goods deeds. This truly exemplifies the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and should serve as a lesson to us all. The students were honored by Superintendent Beverly Hall and Mayor Sharpe James.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will join me as I extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the students of New Jersey.

HONORING KANDACE V. SIMMONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of one of the hardest working young women in my district, Ms. Kandace V. Simmons.

Kandace is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Simmons Design Group, Ltd., a building design firm located in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Simmons Design Group was established in 1969 by her father, the late Harry Simmons, Jr. as Simmons Architects. Ms. Simmons over sees the strategic planning marketing, financial administration, and project management of the firm.

Prior to permanently joining the family business in 1994, Kandace had a varied career. After graduation from Yale University in 1988, she was a financial analyst with Chemical Bank. She later moved to New York City Department of General Services (DGS) becoming a senior policy analyst where she implemented City-wide cost savings initiatives. Ms. Simmons also coordinated activities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in city-owned buildings. In 1992, while still employed by DGS, she founded Simmons Entertainment, managing jazz musicians and producing concerts in Houston, TX.

At her father's request, Ms. Simmons returned to Simmons Architects in July, 1994 with overall responsibility for the business management of the firm. After the death of her father in October 1994, Ms. Simmons took charge of the company. In addition to managing Simmons Design Group, she is an architectural student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kandace Simmons is the eldest child of the late Harry Simmons, Jr. and Dr. Sharon E. Simmons. She is also the sister of Harry Simmons III and Carlton Tarver.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Kandace Simmons for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and showing young women everywhere that they can do, and accomplish, anything.

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOLDOVA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues information about a serious human rights situation in the Trans-Dnestr region of Moldova.

Since 1993, the men known as the "Ilascu Six" have been imprisoned for allegedly murdering two separatists in this region.

The State Department's most recent human rights report for Moldova states that serious questions have been raised about the fairness of the trial of the "Ilascu Six" conducted by Trans-Dnestr officials. There is a strong belief that these men were persecuted for political reasons—solely because they are supporters of reunification with Romania.